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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Byrnes, et al (US Patent No. 6,610,369) in view of Rabiei, et al. Although Rabiei, et al disclosed thermal spray ferrous coatings including aluminum and magnesium, neither Rabiei, et al nor Byrnes, et al suggests a person skilled in the art could add magnesium to a ferrous-based feed wire and thermally spray the same using an oversupply of oxygen in excess to the oxygen required for the stoichiometric combustion of the gaseous fuels, to increase the deposition rate of a molten metal on a cylinder wall by more than two-fold than that deposited when oxygen is supplied at the stoichiometric rate for combustion of gaseous fuel as recited in claim 1. No reasonable expectation of success is suggested by either of the references; at best, it would have been only obvious-to-try. Obvious-to-try is not the standard for determining patentability under 35 USC 103. No prima facie case of obviousness has been established. Notice of allowance of claims 1-13 and new claims 15-16 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to new claims 15-16 which each eliminate magnesium from the group of additives. As such, new claims 15-16 would not have been obvious in Rabiei, et al, which suggests magnesium but none of the other potential additives recited in independent claim 1 or 16. All other rejections of claims pending on the case have been withdrawn by the Examiner. Therefore, notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee for a three-month extension of time to Deposit Account 07-0960.

Respectfully submitted,



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